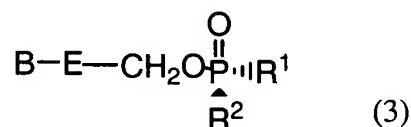


Amendment to the claims

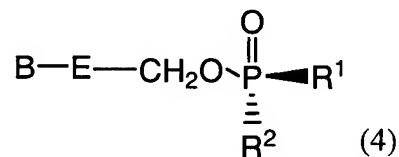
Please amend the claims as set forth on the next page et seq. The claims remaining after amendment are 34-40 and 42-47.

1 - 33. (cancelled)

34. (currently amended) A diastereomerically enriched compound having the structure (3)



which contains less than about 40% by weight of the diastereomer (4)



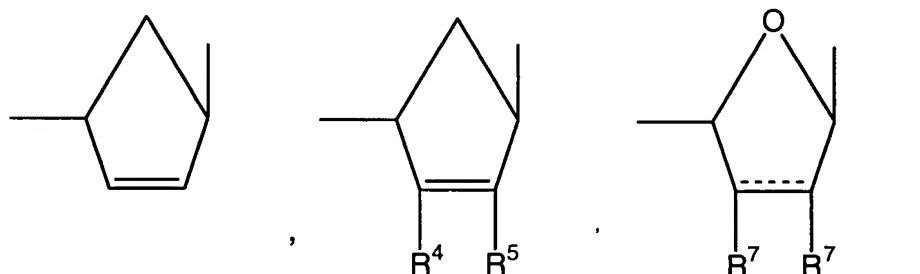
wherein

R¹ is an oxyester which is hydrolyzable *in vivo*, or hydroxyl;

B is a heterocyclic base;

R² is hydroxyl, or the residue of an amino acid bonded to the P atom through an amino group of the amino acid and having each carboxy substituent of the amino acid optionally esterified, but not both of R¹ and R² are hydroxyl;

E is -(CH₂)₂-, -CH(CH₃)CH₂-, -CH(CH₂F)CH₂-, -CH(CH₂OH)CH₂-,
-CH(CH=CH₂)CH₂-, -CH(C≡CH)CH₂-, -CH(CH₂N₃)CH₂-,



-CH(R⁶)OCH(R⁶)-, -CH(R⁹)CH₂O- or -CH(R⁸)O-, wherein the right hand bond is linked to the heterocyclic base;

the broken line represents an optional double bond;

R⁴ and R⁵ are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, amino or a substituent having 1-5 carbon atoms selected from acyloxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, alkylamino and dialkylamino;

R⁶ and R⁶ are independently H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl, or C₂-C₇ alkanoyl;

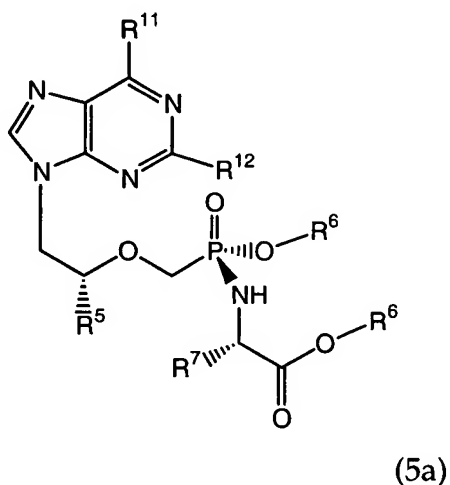
R⁷ is independently H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or are taken together to form -O- or -CH₂-;

R⁸ is H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl or C₁-C₆ haloalkyl; and

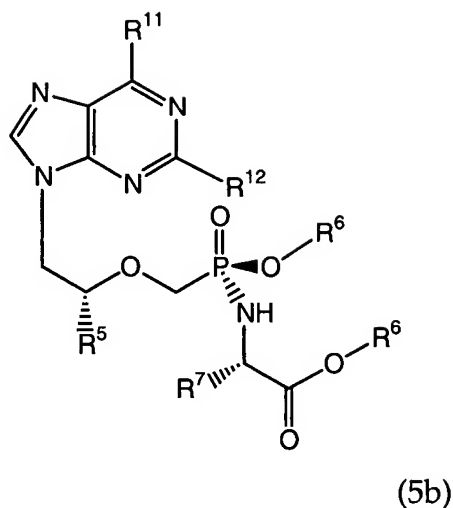
R⁹ is H, hydroxymethyl or acyloxymethyl;

and their salts, free base, and solvates.

35. (currently amended) A diastereomerically enriched compound having the structure (5a)



which contains less than ~~about~~ 40% by weight of diastereomer (5b)



wherein

R⁵ is methyl or hydrogen;

R⁶ independently is H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl or arylalkyl, or R⁶ independently is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl or arylalkyl which is substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from alkylamino, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, halo, amino, alkylthio, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, arylalkoxy, arylalkoxyalkyl, haloalkyl, nitro, nitroalkyl, azido, azidoalkyl, alkylacyl, alkylacylalkyl, carboxyl, or alkylacylamino;

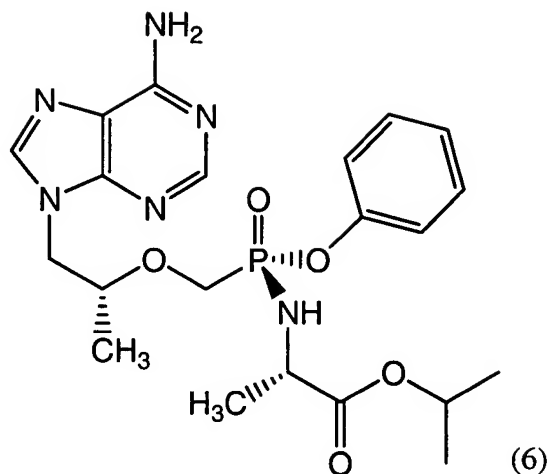
R⁷ is the side chain of any naturally-occurring or pharmaceutically acceptable amino acid and which, if the side chain comprises carboxyl, the carboxyl group is optionally esterified with an alkyl or aryl group;

R¹¹ is amino, alkylamino, oxo, or dialkylamino; and

R¹² is amino or H;

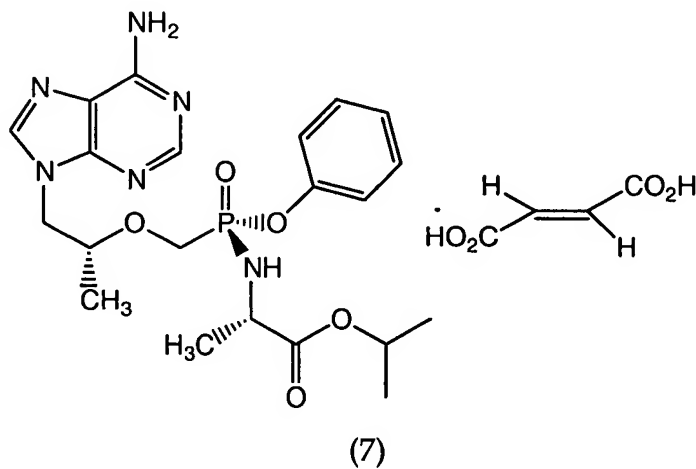
and its salts, tautomers, free base and solvates.

36. (previously presented) A diastereomerically enriched compound of structure (6)

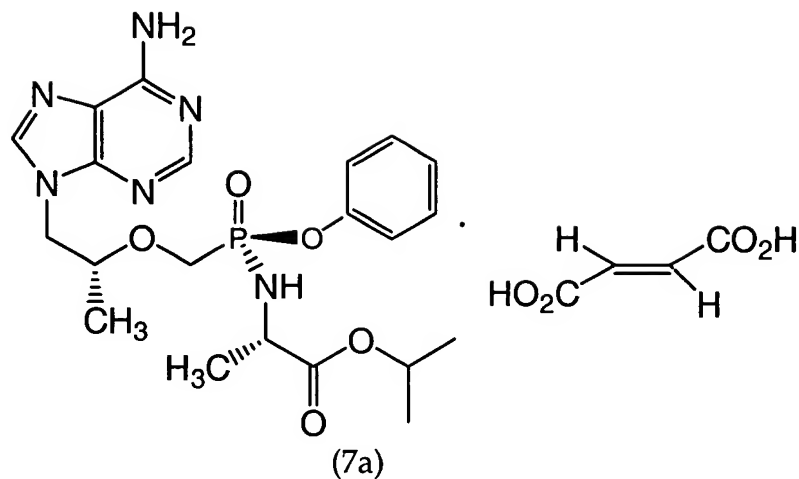


and its salts, tautomers, free base and solvates.

37. (currently amended) A diastereomerically enriched compound of structure
(7)



which contains less than ~~about~~ 40% of diastereomer (7a)



38. (previously presented) A composition comprising a compound of any of claims 34 – 37 or 42 – 47 and a pharmaceutically effective excipient.

39. (previously presented) The composition of claim 38 wherein the excipient is a gel.

40. (original) The composition of claim 38 which is suitable for topical administration.

41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) The compound of claim 34 containing less than ~~about~~ 20% by weight of the diastereomer (4).

43. (currently amended) The compound of claim 34 containing less than ~~about~~ 5% by weight of the diastereomer (4).

44. (currently amended) The compound of claim 35 containing less than ~~about~~ 20% by weight of the diastereomer (5b).

45. (currently amended) The compound of claim 35 containing less than ~~about~~ 5% by weight of the diastereomer (5b).

46. (currently amended) The compound of claim 37 containing less than ~~about~~ 20% by weight of the diastereomer (7a).

47. (currently amended) The compound of claim 37 containing less than ~~about~~ 5% by weight of the diastereomer (7a).